


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to amend the disclosure and the claims to incorporate handwritten changes made by the Applicants. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked-up version showing the changes made to the claims is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE DISCLOSURE:

Paragraph 0022 has been amended as follows:

The object of the invention is further achieved by a method for producing ~~multiple-unit-length~~ compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising: supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, the inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.

Paragraph 0024 has been amended as follows:

It is advantageous if a filter tube is made available and/or produced during a first operating step. The filter tube is preferably filled exclusively from one side, thus permitting a simple design for a corresponding apparatus for producing ~~multiple-unit-length~~ compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry. If the filter tube is advantageously filled from both sides, the filling speed can be increased even further. For this, respectively one half is filled during one filling operation or during several filling operations, in which packets forming several segments are transferred.

Paragraph 0026 has been amended as follows:

The filter tubes are advantageously formed during a preceding operational step and preferably consist of wrapping material sections formed into tubes or tube-shaped wrappers. Filtering material segments preferably are or will be formed, which alternately contain granulated material and gas-permeable end pieces, such as soft elements of cellulose acetate, paper or non-woven material or the like. A filter with n-unit lengths is

preferably formed wherein n is a natural, even number above 1.
A ~~multiple-unit~~ compound filter of n times the length is a filter with n times the usable length. Thus, we are here dealing with a multiple-unit filter with n times the usable length, wherein "multiple" stands for a plurality of segments of filtering material within the filter tube.

Paragraph 0027 had been amended as follows:

According to another aspect of the invention, a ~~multiple-unit~~ length compound filter is advantageously produced according to one of the above-described methods.

Paragraph 0037 has been amended as follows:

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided apparatus for producing ~~multiple-unit-length~~ compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising: a filter-tube feeding element; at least one conveying element into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and at least one processing station for being supplied with the filter tubes by the at least one conveying element, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

Paragraph 0038 has been amended as follows:

In the event that the portions are inserted into more than one filter tube in the processing station, it is advantageous if respectively two portions can be inserted. This embodiment according to the invention of the apparatus for producing ~~multiple-unit-length~~ compound filters makes it possible to achieve an extremely fast processing speed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 38 has been amended as follows:

38. A method for producing ~~multiple-unit~~ compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising the following operational steps:

supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and
inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, said inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.

Claim 47 has been amended as follows:

47. The method according to claim 38, including producing a compound filter having a multiple unit filter of n units, wherein n is a natural, even number higher than 1.

Claim 48 has been amended as follows:

48. A ~~multiple-unit-length~~ compound filter produced according to the method of claim 38.

Claim 49 has been amended as follows:

49. An apparatus for producing ~~multiple-unit-length~~
compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry,
comprising:

a filter-tube feeding element;

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are
insertable from the feeding element; and

at least one processing station for being supplied with the
filter tubes by the at least one conveyor, wherein at least one
of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion
station including means for inserting two portions of filtering
materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

Claim 61 has been amended as follows:

61. A ~~multiple-unit~~ compound filter manufacturing system
for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

a conveying system for conveying filter tubes supplied by
the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement
path; and

at least one processing station receiving filter tubes from
the conveying system, said at least one processing station
including at least processing station for inserting at least two
portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube

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during one operational step.